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SOVIET SCHOLARS AND TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION IN NORTH KOREA

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The writer praises the assistance given to higher education in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by the 16 Soviet educators who visited North Korea in 1947. The Soviet educators gave many lectures and sponsored the First Scientific Conference of University and College Teachers, which was attended by 291 Korean professors and engineers. Names followed by asterisks are Korean approximations of foreign names.

The Soviet Union has given great assistance in establishing and improving advanced technological instruction in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The greatest contributing factor was the visit of 16 famous Soviet educators who came from various universities and technical laboratories in the Soviet Union. They included seven doctors and nine scholars, among whom were Dr Oparin, the world-famous biologist and Dr Arutunyan, professor at the Second Medical Institute of Moscow.

Within 3 months after the arrival of the Soviet educators, not only university professors but also the general public had become acquainted with important scientific theories through lectures and articles contributed to newspapers and magazines. The visiting educators also sponsored the First Scientific Conference of University and College Teachers, which was held at P'yongyang 2 - 24 August 1947. This conference was especially important in the field of technological education, which had been retarded by the slavish colonial education under the Japanese imperialists. The conference resulted in the complete eradication of the old educational system and set up a new revolutionary basis for Korean education.

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The conference was attended by 291 Koreans (274 professors from 11 colleges and universities and 17 engineers from industrial plants). The program of the conference included lectures on agriculture, engineering, transportation, electricity, and some lectures of a general nature. Altogether, there were 504 lecture hours.

Dr Mayisuryan* gave lectures on agriculture including: "Seasonal Growth of Plant Life and Its Practical Application," "Endurance of Plant Life at Low Temperatures," "Progress of Soviet Science and Practice in Agricultural Technology," etc. Dr Kachechny* lectured on "Progressive Soviet Veterinary Medicine, Microbiology and Domestic Animal Epidemiology," "Prevention of Epidemics in Livestock Breeding," "The Operational Organization of Veterinarians in Soviet Russia," etc. These lectures contributed much to the development of Korean agriculture, which had been greatly retarded by the savage Japanese colonial policy of enslavement. Dr Kachechny's lectures on "Methods of Organizing Teachers in an Agricultural College" and on a few other topics furnished pointers for the organization and management of advanced agricultural education.

In the field of mining, Professor Chistyakov* lectured on "Metal Mining" and "Mining Geology," and Professors Laptev* and Savelyev* lectured on metallurgy, mining, etc. Altogether, they covered ten fields in mining.

In the field of transportation, Professor Rogov lectured on "Transportation and Its Management," "Methods of Assembling Rolling Stock," etc. Professor Nishiita* lectured on "Determination of Work Allocation Plans for Railway Workers," "Fundamental Principles of Scheduling Railway Operations," etc. Altogether, there were 16 lecture hours in this field.

Professor Saburov* lectured on "Theoretical Technology in Present-Day Electrical Engineering" and on mathematics and physics; Dr Malkshevich* lectured on "General Concepts of Functional Principles," and Dr Ilyin* lectured on "Atomic Physics."

In the field of medicine, Dr Arutunyan lectured on "Current Medical Problems." In zoology, Dr Murapaskiy* lectured on "How to Prepare Research Reports," etc. There were also lectures on "Methods of Medical School Management," "Teaching Methods," etc.

These lectures on educational techniques contributed tremendously in improving the quality of advanced technical education in Korea. In particular, the biology lecture on "The Origin of Living Beings" by the world-famous Dr Oparin and the philosophy lecture by Dr Veseyskiy* helped a great deal to advance both the people's culture and their technology.

After the conference, the Soviet professors continued their lectures and educational guidance in various universities and colleges in North Korea.

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